

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Pearl River BSU heads to Salt Lake City

By Rachel Morris  
PRCC BSU member

Members of the Pearl River Community College (PRCC) Baptist Student Union (BSU) in Poplarville were given the opportunity March 7-14 to experience home missions in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Nineteen students and three adults prepared for ski slope ministries and other mission opportunities in this predominantly Mormon area.

The group departed New Orleans International Airport on March 7, anxious to ski but mainly to work for the glory of the Lord.

Upon arrival in Salt Lake City, they were greeted by God's beautiful creation, the majestic mountains.

Kevin Sigsby, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) missionary, took the group to Holladay Baptist Church where they stayed for the week.

The first three days were spent snow skiing at various resorts in the area, a bonding experience for our group due to the fact that the majority were beginners.

The second ski day was devoted to ski resort ministries on the slopes where the group led a brief worship service.

Half of the group went to Park City, where Sigsby is the ski chaplain, and the remainder went to Snowbasin.

The services consisted of praise songs, scripture readings, and a short devotion.

The last few days were devoted to the Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM) at the University of Utah, and projects at a local church and food pantry.

The first job was cleaning the BCM House from top to bottom, inside and out — a job any BSUer would appreciate.

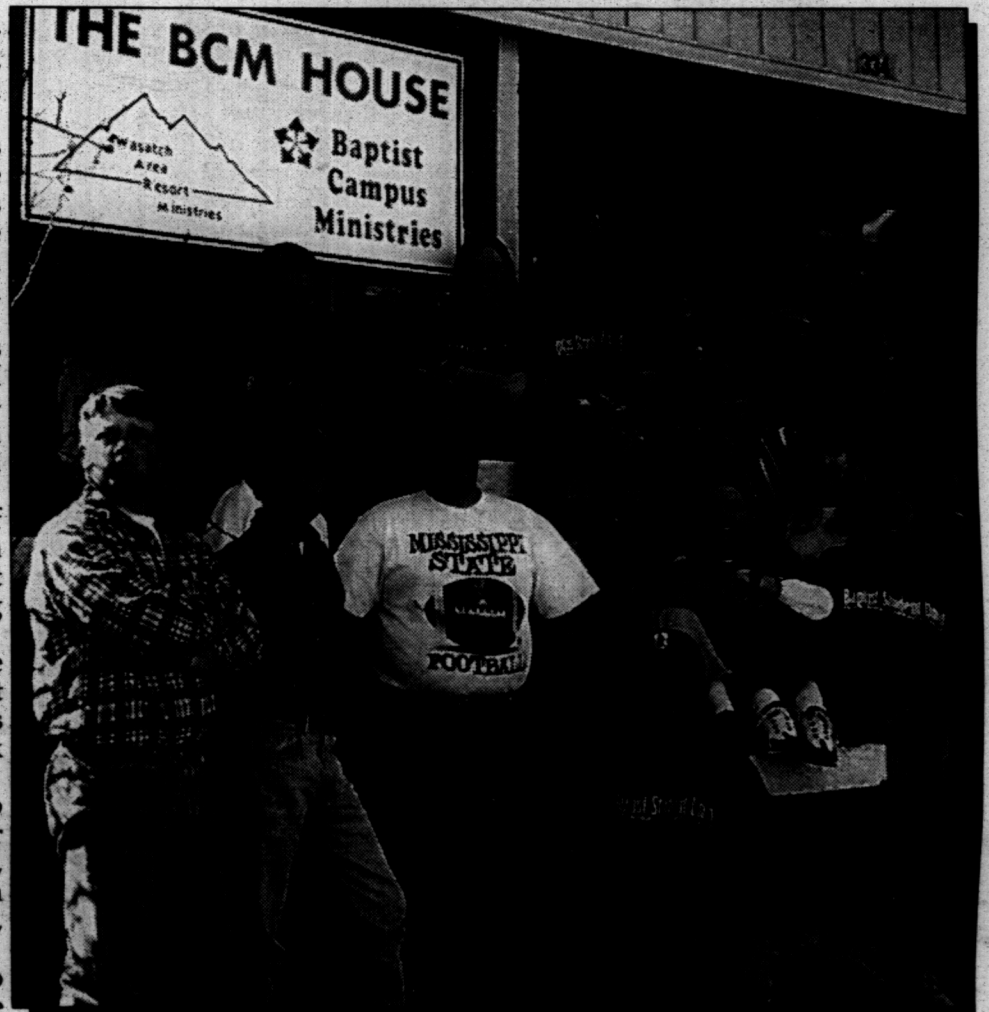
A few members of the group stocked a food closet at the Baptist Concern Center during this time.

Group members were astonished at the great amount of food products given away in one week to the poverty stricken.

Next, the group sponsored a lunch for the BCM members, young Christians with similar interests, goals, and problems.

Group members also led a worship service with skits, praise songs, and a devotion for this amazing group of Utah students willing to stand up for their faith in such a different society.

The final mission experience was ministering at Central Indian Baptist Church.



MISSISSIPPIANS IN UTAH — Members of the Baptist Student Union (BSU) at Pearl River Community College in Poplarville pose at the Baptist Campus Mission (BCM) building at the University of Utah. The BSUers made the trip on March 7-14. (BR special photo)

Leading a puppet show and Bible story for these poor Native American families was a rewarding experience for everyone involved.

All were touched by these individual experiences in some way.

At the end of the week the group had become very close,

with stories and friendships to cherish forever.

All left with a deep appreciation for mission work in America and with the intent to spread the Word in their own camps and town.

Morris is member of First Church, Picayune. Morris Baker is the PRCC BSU director.

### Women's corps training set

The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) will host the first Christian Women's Job Corp (CWJC) national training event Aug. 7-9 at WMU's national headquarters in Birmingham, Ala. Registration deadline is July 15 or when 200 participants have registered.

CWJC is a holistic training program for women in need, coordinated and staffed primarily by local volunteer leadership who design and implement a plan to meet needs in their location. While projects vary in format, the objectives are the same — to provide a Christian context in which women in need are equipped for life and employment; and a missions context in which women help women.

Trudy Johnson, WMU special projects manager, said the Aug. 7-9 training event is recommended for individuals who are committed to starting a CWJC site. Completion of the training, she noted, will "certify" individuals to begin sites, meaning no site can carry the CWJC distinction until the coordinator has completed certification training.

The training session begins at 8 a.m. on Aug. 7 and concludes at noon on Aug. 9. Cost is \$155 per person including meals and some local ground transportation. Housing is a separate expense.

To register contact Johnson at WMU, P. O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283. Telephone: (205) 991-4972; or e-mail 70423.355@compuserve.com.

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Six more head to N.D.

NIV flap beats up

Kluxer finds salvation

Letters to the Editor

### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

Crowder Church, Crowder, passes its goal of 250 in Sunday School, with 289 present. Anthony Atkinson is recognized for inviting the most people, and his photo appears in "The Baptist Record." Harvey Sewell is pastor.

#### 20 years ago

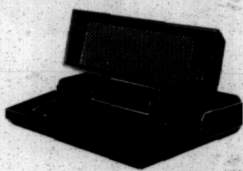
Lyon Church, Clarksdale, dedicates a new annex containing three classrooms for children, an office suite, and a library conference room. The building and furnishings cost \$149,300 and was dedicated debt free. J.W. McCleskey is pastor.

#### 50 years ago

After 12 days of revival, a church is organized in Ridgeland and Richard Miller, a junior at Mississippi College, is called as pastor. Sixteen people come forward to become the first members and vote to give 10% of all offerings to the Cooperative Program.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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**Postmaster: Send changes of address  
to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box  
530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send  
news, communication, and address  
changes to The Editor, BAPTIST  
RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS  
39205-0530 (601) 968-3800**

VOLUME 121 NUMBER 17  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4  
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,  
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per  
year payable in advance. Economy plans  
available for cooperating Mississippi  
churches. Periodicals postage paid at  
Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State  
Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items —  
one calendar week prior to requested pub-  
lication date. Advertising — two calendar  
weeks prior to requested publication date.

# Memorial Day fitting tribute to sacrifices

**I** was born a few weeks past Memorial Day in 1955, ten years after the end of World War II. Boys of my generation grew up hearing countless stories of heroism under fire. I watched all the old John Wayne and Dana Andrews war movies, and lionized my great-uncles who fought their way across Europe.

Jasper Neel, my childhood pastor, was seriously wounded at the Battle of the Bulge. As he lay broken and alone on that cold, dark night in the Ardennes Forest, he gave up his long resistance to God's call and surrendered to the ministry.

The war defined that generation of Americans, in my opinion the greatest generation since the Founding Fathers. They were determined and brave. They were noble and self-sacrificial. They were how I wanted to live my life.

Time passed. On Memorial Day 1965, I thrilled to the tales of Marine leathernecks beating back Viet Cong invaders. I owned just about every accessory that G.I. Joe would ever need to triumph over his evil enemies. I was a soldier-in-waiting.

By Memorial Day 1975, I had been turned down for military service due to bad eyesight and knee surgery brought on by a high school football injury. Although military service was highly unpopular at that time, being classified "4-F" was one of the greatest disappointments of my young life.

Memorial Day 1985 found me busily

building a career and personal life as a single adult. The world was my apple and I was taking huge bites. Still, I recall pausing to contemplate what might have been if I had been able to prove my mettle under fire like my mentors of World War II.

However, my attitude had completely changed by Memorial Day 1995. My children had been born.

I no longer saw the glory behind war. For the first time, the human toll was personal. I continued to watch those John Wayne/Dana Andrews movies, but through a different filter.

In the film clips of exhausted, hollow-eyed Marines departing Guadalcanal after months of withering hand-to-hand combat, I saw my son's face over and over again under the helmets.

Among the lifeless bodies washing up on the shores of Normandy, I saw young men I taught the week before in three-year-old Sunday School.

I remembered that the stories of my great-uncles' combat exploits were told to me by other relatives, because they seldom talked about it themselves. I think I now know why.

War is not all it's cracked up to be in a youngster's foolish fantasies of manhood. Bravery and heroism are bought at a terrible price, and too many good people have had to pay that price.

Yet, we are free today because they were willing to pay that price on our behalf. Americans can worship as we choose — and our country can serve as the spring-

## A SOLDIER'S PRAYER



"GOD HATH SAID, I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE, NOR FORSAKE THEE. SO THAT WE MAY BOLDLY SAY, THE LORD IS MY HELPER, AND I WILL NOT FEAR WHAT MAN SHALL DO UNTO ME."  
— HEB. 13:5,6

board for Christianity around the world — because of them.

Far too many of them lost all their tomorrows so we could have today.

One day of recognition each year is not enough, but in our small way on Memorial Day it is fitting that we honor them and offer a prayer of appreciation for their sacrifices.

We owe them so much.

**O**n Sunday, June 1, Baptists will observe Religious Liberty Sunday — and most Baptists will ignore it.

That is a shame because religious freedom is the most important of all our freedoms. Unless a person is free to worship God as he pleases, or not worship at all, his other freedoms are worthless.

This is why our forefathers made religious liberty the first article in the Bill of Rights. They knew that the fiercest persecutions in history had come from religious people trying to make other people believe and worship just like they did. So they gave us religious liberty to protect our right to worship as we please.

Baptists have long championed this liberty. Not only were we largely responsible for that first article, but we have held high the idea of separation of church and state as a corollary of religious liberty.

Some interpret this as a separation of all religion from the government. This is entirely false. The principle is that the organized church shall not control the government and the government shall not control the church.

Each shall operate in its own sphere, free from the control of the other. The darkest pages in history were written when the church controlled the government. It must never happen again.

At the present time there are two movements that are a real threat to our religious freedom. The first is a group who claim they want to take us back to our roots and make us a Christian nation again.

These people would receive a poor grade in both theology and history. A nation cannot be Christian; only an individual can be a Christian, and we were never a Christian nation.

Our forefathers founded a democratic nation where Christians, and all others, were free to worship as they pleased. Most

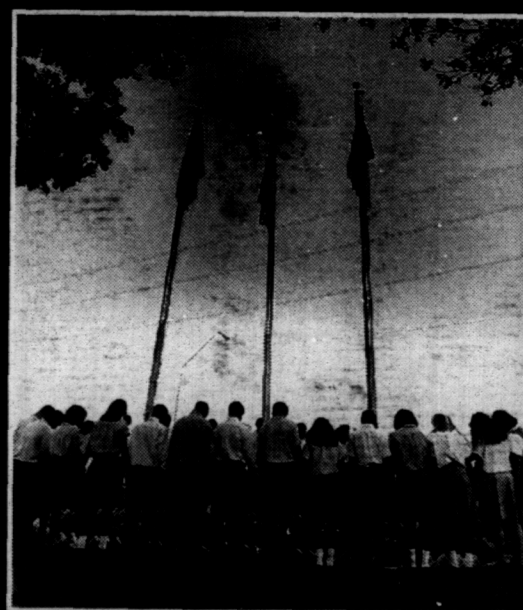
## GUEST OPINION:



### Protecting our religious liberty

By Charles E. Myers  
Retired pastor, Jackson

*'Christ hath made us free'*  
(Galatians 5:1)



Observe Religious Liberty Sunday  
June 1, 1997

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission  
of the Southern Baptist Convention

of our Founding Fathers were Christians familiar with religious persecution.

This persecution came from one dominant religious group seeking to impose their views on all. Our forefathers wanted

to avoid that so they wrote a Constitution that provided that government would not make any laws establishing religion, nor could it prohibit the free exercise of religion.

Those who would make us a Christian nation see themselves in control of the government tolerating all other religious groups. This is not religious liberty. This idea has been tried and found wanting.

We Baptists would do no better job running the government than other religious groups have.

The second area of concern is a group motivated by greed. These people are apparently willing to sell their religious freedom for all the future for a few tax dollars now.

They want everyone to be taxed to pay for their schools. Over 80% of all parochial schools are owned by one group. A few Baptists have joined them seeking tax money for all parochial schools.

Our religious freedom guarantees that no one has to pay taxes to support anyone's religion. Our position has been that church groups may have the schools they want, teach whatever they want; but they should pay for their schools themselves.

If their schools are not important enough for them to support their existence, they should not expect the government to force others to do so.

Vouchers and other schemes are merely plans to bypass the Constitution. They can also cost us our religious freedom. When the government forces us to support religious causes — whether ours or someone else's — we are no longer free.

On this significant Sunday, let us thank God for our Founding Fathers who wrote a Constitution guaranteeing religious freedom for all, and determine to do our best to pass that freedom on to our children and grandchildren.



# Mississippian selected for U.S. gambling panel

WASHINGTON (BP)—Paul Moore, a Pascagoula radiologist and friend of U.S. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), will be seated as a member of the new commission established to study the impact of widespread legalized gambling in the U.S.

An opponent of legalized gambling was also named to chair the commission, but both gambling opponents and proponents were not completely satisfied with her selection.

The selection of Kay James, dean of the school of government at Pat Robertson's Regent University, to chair the National Gambling Impact Study Commission elicited outright criticism from the gambling industry.

A Southern Baptist anti-gambling advocate, while calling James an "excellent choice," said there could be a downside to her selection.

"Her presence as chairper-

son assures those of us who are opposed to gambling that no official decisions will be made behind the scenes without someone sympathetic to our concerns being present," said Barrett Duke of the Christian Life Commission.

"Through her previous positions of service, Mrs. James has demonstrated that she can weather the many storms that the chairperson of this commission will face.

"My only concern is that as chairperson she will have to maintain an attitude of neutrality at times that may make it difficult for her to voice her own opinions on some issues.

"Nevertheless, I believe the trade-off is worth it," Duke said.

The American Gaming Association (AGA), the gambling industry's lobbying arm, charged gambling opponents would pressure James "to use the commission process as an

inquisition against legalized gambling," according to an Associated Press (AP) report in "The Washington Post."

"Certainly, it would have been fairer to Kay Coles James and other members of the commission to have selected as chairman someone neutral on gaming, rather than someone who is morally opposed to it," said AGA Chairman Frank Fahrenkopf, former chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Besides James, the only other appointee identified as anti-gambling is James Dobson, president of the conservative Focus on the Family ministry based in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Mississippian Moore is considered to be non-aligned.

According to the law establishing the commission, President Clinton, House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) and Lott have joint authority to

name the commission's chairman.

In case of a disagreement, the chairman is to be determined by a majority vote, according to the law.

Only Gingrich and Lott selected James. It was not announced whom the president favored.



**THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE**

**Record**

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MAY 29, 1997

VOL. 121

NO. 17

## Six-member Miss. team heading to N.D.

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

Southern Baptist efforts to aid people devastated by the flooding of the Red River in North Dakota and Minnesota continues with the help of six Mississippians.

Volunteers Ronnie Ferrell of Isola, a member of Eastside Church, Belzoni; Ellen Johns of Mendenhall, a member of Corinth Church; Bobby and Dixie Kennedy of Wesson, members of Pearl Valley Church; Yvonne Martin of Tylertown; a member of Tylertown Church; and Sandra Nash of Clinton, a member of First Church, Clinton, flew to Grand Forks, N.D. on Monday, May 26, to work in the child care ministry of the Southern Baptist disaster relief effort in that area.

In late April the Red River crested 26 feet above flood level, forcing the evacuation of over 47,000 people and doing over a billion dollars worth of damage, according to press reports.

Donna Swarts, a member of Corinth Church, Magee, returned to Mississippi on May 24 after spending two weeks as the overall coordinator of Southern Baptist childcare ministry in the Grand Forks area.

"At present there are two child care units open," Swarts said in a telephone interview from her home in Magee.

One facility is on the east bank of the Red River in Minnesota at River Heights Lutheran Church, and is staffed by Southern Baptist childcare workers from Illinois, Georgia, and South Carolina.

"They see around 90 children a day," she said.

The other facility is on the west bank in Grand Forks, N.D., at Hope Evangelical Covenant Church. It is being staffed by Baptists from Ohio, Missouri and Mississippi.

"At this location there is some turnover, so they see over 100 children each day," Swarts said.

The six Mississippians who left this week are working at the Grand Forks site and will be part of the transition to local childcare support.

"On Wednesday and Thursday (May 28 and 29) Grand Forks Human Services will bring their own childcare people in to be trained alongside our people," Swarts said.

After May 30, the Baptist workers will leave, she added.

Other Southern Baptist disaster relief units have also been involved in North Dakota. A feeding unit from Texas has already left, while an Oklahoma unit feeding unit remains.

Swarts indicated that mud-out units will be on site for several weeks to come.

"I want to thank the people of Mississippi and others who prayed for us. We felt their prayers," Swarts said.

The needs will continue for months to come, she noted.

These are pioneer people, she observed. "They have worked hard all their lives and have a difficult time accepting help."

"We found out that if we asked them if they wanted the care packages we were handing out, most would decline, but if we just gave it to them, they would accept it," Swarts said.

"Parents would come with their children, not knowing who Southern Baptists were. The children would cry, but when the parents returned to pick up their children, the children would cry because they did not want to leave us. I think parents were comforted by this," she said.

"God is doing a great work bringing all these people together — all denominations, social-economic groups, political groups, cultures, and races," she said.

"I'm glad to be home, but I'm proud to have been a part of this," Swarts added.



LOVING TOUCH — Ellen Johns (center) and Donna Swarts (right) of Corinth Church, Magee, provide disaster relief childcare ministry after a flood last year in Georgia. Johns is in North Dakota this week providing similar childcare ministry in the aftermath of the history-making flood there, and Swarts just returned from several weeks as director of childcare for the Southern Baptist relief effort in North Dakota. Heather Booth (left) of Meadowbrook Church, Amory, also provided childcare after the Georgia flood. (BR special photo)



# NIV flap heats up with television debate

NEW YORK (BP) — The "patriarchal" culture of the biblical writers requires an updated, gender-neutral translation of the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible, the chairman of the Committee on Bible Translation (CBT) asserted May 15 in a national cable television talk show.

While denying a "political agenda" is motivating the push for the amended translation, John Stek asserted the ancient culture was "very patriarchal, and because it was very patriarchal, that affected the language."

The CBT, a 15-member team of scholars responsible for NIV translation, is working on a gender-neutral update of the NIV scheduled to be completed by the year 2001.

Stek appeared on Fox News Channel's "Hannity & Colmes" opposite R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

"The issue is not whether a translation's politically correct, but whether it's theologically correct," Mohler said. "I believe we have no right to tamper with the Word of God."

Such tampering, Mohler added later in the broadcast, "will come at grave costs."

If the CBT goes forward with the gender-neutral translation, Mohler declared, "I can no longer recommend the New International Version as a version I believe the Christian church should trust."

The controversy surrounding the new translation has escalated over the six weeks following the first report on the issue in the March 29 issue of "World," an evangelical news magazine.

Stek asserted "emphatically" the "CBT has no political agenda whatsoever." Instead, the pur-

pose is "to get the Word of God out to as many people where there is as little confusion as possible," Stek said.

The reality that the English language is changing cannot be denied and translators "can't just stick with the old language when it is moving out from under them," Stek said.

Mohler responded, "I'm not so sure the language is changing. I think the ideologies and world-views behind the language are changing. The issue is how we

address that. And I believe we do not properly address that by making the translation more politically correct, whether it's intentionally designed to serve that kind of agenda or not."

Although Zondervan, the American publisher of the popular NIV, has repeatedly denied that a final decision has been made to move forward with the gender-neutral Bible, Stek never gave any doubt about the new translation's availability after the turn of the century.

A caller who identified herself as a female African-American from Calif. and a male from Tenn. affirmed Mohler's position during the program.

The woman said prayer "for guidance and humility of heart" should precede the reading of Scripture and suggested the gender-neutral changes will not be the last. "If we start to allow some of these subtle changes, we are going to have people that are always going to have justifications for adding and changing."

## You decide...

These are the passages cited by "World", April 19, 1997, as a means of comparison of the New International Version Inclusive Language Edition (now only available in England) and the popular edition available in America. Added is the text of the same verses from the New International Reader's Version (NIRV) which publisher Zondervan describes as a "concise Bible created especially for beginning readers," and available in the U.S., including Baptist Book Stores. (Source: Baptist Press)

### CURRENT NIV

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image...." So God created man in his own image...male and female he created them.

Psalms 8:4

What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

Luke 17:3

If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.

John 6:44

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...

### INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE NIV

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image..." So God created human beings in his own image...male and female he created them.

Psalms 8:4

What are mere mortals that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

Luke 17:3

Rebuke a brother or sister who sins, and if they repent, forgive them.

John 6:44

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God and one mediator between God and human beings, Christ Jesus, himself human...

### NIRV

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our likeness...." So God created human beings in his own likeness.... He created them as male and female.

Psalms 8:4

What is a human being that you think about him? What is a son of man that you take care of him?

Luke 17:3

If your brother or sister sins, tell them they are wrong. Then if they turn away from their sins, forgive them.

John 6:44

People can't come to me unless the Father who sent me brings them. Then I will raise them up on the last day.

1 Timothy 2:5

There is only one God. And there is only one go-between for God and human beings. He is the man Christ Jesus.

## BSSB officials express concern over NIV plans

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Concerns and questions of the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) were aired May 19 to representatives of three organizations facing controversy over the New International Version (NIV) Bible translation.

No statements, however, were issued after the meeting by officials from the Southern Baptist agency or the three organizations — Zondervan Publishing House, the International Bible Society (IBS) and the Committee on Bible Translation (CBT).

Zondervan, IBS, and CBT are embroiled in objections by numerous evangelicals to a "gender-neutral" NIV planned for the U.S. market in 2001.

BSSB uses the current NIV text in many of its Sunday School and discipleship resources and in various Bible texts and commentaries.

First published in 1978 and revised in 1983, the current NIV holds a 45% share of all Bibles sold in the U. S.

Ted Warren, BSSB executive vice presi-

dent and chief operating officer, said in a statement several days before the meeting, "We are concerned about the proposed gender-neutral version. We are in the process of gathering facts and identifying their implications before we consider options about the continued use of the current NIV."

Warren and Gene Mims, BSSB vice president of the church growth group, were among board officials at the meeting, held at the board's Nashville, Tenn., headquarters. R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., also was in attendance. BSSB President James T. Draper Jr. was out of town.

Bruce Ryskamp, Zondervan's president and chief executive officer, and Ken Barker, CBT secretary, were among the NIV-related representatives at the meeting.

Zondervan, the NIV's U.S. publisher, is based in Grand Rapids, Mich. The IBS, the NIV's copyright holder, is based in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The CBT, meanwhile, is a 15-member

group of scholars with authority over the NIV translation and the revision now under way of the text into gender-neutral language.

Speculation has surfaced that Southern Baptists may address the NIV controversy in the form of a resolution at the upcoming annual meeting of the convention in Dallas, June 17-19.

Zondervan officials have acknowledged efforts in damage control as the issue of a revised NIV has gained widespread national attention.

"It could certainly have a chilling effect on sales of NIV," predicted Bill Merrell, vice president of convention relations for the SBC Executive Committee, in an interview with the Raleigh, N.C., "News & Observer."

Mohler said he believes an underlying agenda is directed at the Bible because it is divine revelation.

"What you have is persons claiming, 'The only way this can speak to me is if it addresses me on terms I will accept,'" Mohler said.



# Unlikely brotherhood a result of prayer

By Dana Williamson  
Oklahoma Baptist Messenger

McALESTER, Okla. (BP) — "Hello, brother."

Not an unusual greeting for two Christians — but extremely unusual from a former Ku Klux Klan grand wizard to a black pastor and former state president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"My wife answered the phone when Johnny Lee Clary called to tell me he had surrendered to the ministry," said Wade Watts, pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church in McAlester, Okla.

"Handing me the phone, my wife whispered, 'It's that old Ku Klux Klansman,'" Watts recounted.

When Clary said, "Hello, brother," Watts said, "That sounded mighty strange to me" after all the years of harassing phone calls from Clary, who had risen to the top of the anti-black terrorist organization and had once set fire to Watts' church building.

Clary met Watts when the two debated on an Oklahoma City radio station in the late 1970s and Watts was a target of the Klan.

"I called Watts every name in the book," Clary said, "and he would respond with 'God bless you, son. Jesus loves you.'"

Watts' wife and adopted half-black, half-white baby girl were waiting in the lobby of the radio station.

As the men left, Watts turned to Clary and said, "Just look at this baby. How can you hate her?"

"When I saw this baby, I didn't see a black baby, nor did I see a white baby. I just saw a baby who needed love," Clary said.

Clary said when he looked into the baby's eyes, "I knew I could never hate her."

After only six months in the Klan's top position of grand wizard, Clary said he

knew something was missing.

"I thought I had arrived," he said. "Once I got there, I thought I would be fulfilled."

"Getting to the top cost me a marriage and a child. Everything came crashing down around me. I was again to the point of thinking about taking my life."

Clary said while he was thinking about taking his life, he looked over and saw a Bible laying on a table and remembered the happiest times in his life were the years of his youth he spent at Carter Park Church in McAlester.

"I picked up the Bible and began looking at it, thinking I should pray and ask

been praying for you for years," Clary said.

"I told him back in 1989, his prayers were answered," Clary continued. "I resigned from the Klan and got my heart right with the Lord and decided to serve him the rest of my life."

Clary told Watts the reason he was calling was because the Lord impressed him to call Watts and tell him he had surrendered to preach.

Watts inquired if he had preached anywhere yet and asked Clary to do him the honor of speaking for the first time in his all-black church.

When Clary asked how to get there, Watts replied, "You ought to know. You tried to burn it down!"

At the end of Clary's first message in the McAlester church, a girl about 15 years old came down the aisle during the invitation, Clary said.

"She was crying and said she wanted to know this same Jesus I knew," Clary said.

"Then I heard someone else crying, and saw Watts getting to his feet."

"Johnny Lee," he said, "you remember that little baby I showed you when we debated years ago at the radio station, and I asked you how you could hate the baby? Johnny Lee, that's that baby!"

"I just froze," Clary said. "I thought there was something familiar about those eyes."

Watts has 13 children and only four of them had not been saved when Clary preached that morning.

After "that baby" made her decision, the other three unsaved children came forward to make professions of faith.

"Rev. Watts hugged me and said, 'Who would have ever believed God would take an old Ku Klux Klansman, have me pray for him all these years, and he would come down here and lead my unsaved kids to the Lord?'" Clary described.

"That day a friendship was born between two men who can truly call each other 'brother,'" Clary said.



THEN AND NOW — Evangelist Johnny Lee Clary, proudly sporting his KKK regalia as an angry young man, was changed by the love and prayers of African-American minister Wade Watts and his family. Watts' photo was not available. Their incredible story came to a climax when Watts' adopted daughter was saved by Clary's Gospel message. (Photos courtesy of Oklahoma Baptist Messenger)

Jesus for forgiveness and rededicate my life to him," Clary said.

Clary said when he got up off his knees after asking for forgiveness, "I felt like 1,000 pounds had been lifted off my shoulders."

In 1991, God called Clary to preach.

"I asked the Lord what I should do, and he put it in my mind to call Wade Watts," Clary said.

"When I asked Watts if he remembered John Clary, he said, 'Remember you, son? I've

## Mississippian at center of plan to end La. struggle

ALEXANDRIA, La. (ABP) — With a new state convention executive director and college president in place, the Louisiana Baptist Convention (LBC) executive board has asked for a moratorium on infighting which has divided the 587,000-member convention.

"We have all paid an enormous price for turning inward and turning on one another," said John Alley, executive board chair. He reported on a study which found that baptisms declined in churches involved in denominational struggles.

Alley outlined a series of proposals from a group that has been meeting to seek to end conflict centering on charges of liberalism at Louisiana College and politicization of state-convention elections. The group asked that:

- ◆ Two advocacy groups, the moderate Friends of Louisiana College and the conservative Louisiana Baptists Speaking the Truth in Love, meet separately and then together to propose consensus candidates for the convention president, first vice president, and second vice president.

- ◆ Critics allow new Louisiana College President Rory Lee, former president of William Carey College in Hattiesburg; and new state convention Executive Director Dean Doster "time to do their job."

- ◆ Partisans, for at least a year, "lay aside painful issues" and refrain from issuing public statements on controversies.

- ◆ The Baptist state paper, the "Baptist Message," to "begin to help us lay aside our feud" and "promote those

things among us that bring us together."

- ◆ Both sides seek to promote Louisiana College and avoid negative statements about the school in Pineville.

- ◆ Baptists in the state "set in motion a greater fellowship among all of us" by taking time to get to know one another personally.

The executive board endorsed the proposal. Later, leaders of the conservative group met and after "lively discussion ... voted by a large majority to participate in the proposed initiatives," according to a statement released by Leon Hyatt, a leader of Louisiana Baptists Speaking the Truth in Love.

Issues dividing Louisiana Baptists are important and need to be addressed, Alley said. "But in the process we

found ourselves spending more time on the issues than we did on the harvest and blaming each other for a lot of things that were no one's fault and everybody's fault."

Meanwhile, in North Carolina, another state convention torn by strife between moderates and conservatives, a "committee of 20" met a second time to discuss "a shared vision in N.C. Baptist life in order to move forward together to fulfill our mission," according to news story in the May 10 issue of the "Biblical Recorder," N.C. Baptist newsjournal.

The committee, appointed by state convention president Greg Mathis, a conservative, includes both moderates and conservatives.

Based on reporting by Lacy Thompson and R.G. Puckett.

## The Road to Everlasting Life



God intends for all his children live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road you must:

**Admit that you are a sinner.**

*There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)*

**Accept God's love for you.**

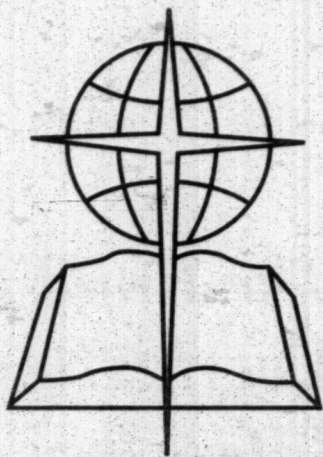
*God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)*

**Acknowledge Christ as Lord.**

*If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)*

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.





**Southern Baptist  
Convention**  
1997 Annual Meeting  
and  
associated meetings

June 15-19, 1997  
Dallas, Texas

## Tickets still available

New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) has extended through noon on June 16 the \$10 per person ticket price for the school's June 18 Alumni and Friends Breakfast in Dallas during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Tickets ordered after June 1 may be picked up at the NOBTS exhibit booth in Dallas, and \$15 tickets will also be available at the booth after the deadline. The lower-priced tickets can be ordered from the NOBTS Alumni Office, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126. Telephone: (800) NOBTS01.

# Shuttle to provide Dallas meeting transportation

DALLAS (BP) — Shuttle service during the Southern Baptist Convention's June 17-19 annual meeting and pre-SBC meetings June 15-16 has been arranged for 22 Dallas-area hotels to the Dallas Convention Center.

Additionally, a shuttle discount will be available for the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport and Love Field.

Tickets for shuttles from 11 Market Center-area hotels may be purchased in the convention center's registration area at a cost of \$10 for four days, \$8 for three days, both with unlimited service from Monday, June 16, through Thursday.

Shuttles will run from 7 a.m. until one hour after each day's closing session. Courtesy shuttles from the Market Center area will be in service Sunday

to enable messengers to travel to and from the convention center.

For 10 hotels in downtown Dallas, an \$8 pass for four days for the DART/Light Rail System also will be sold in the SBC registration area.

Market Center-area hotels to be serviced by the shuttles are the Wilson World, Renaissance, Harvey Hotel-Brookhollow, Radisson, Best Western, Holiday Inn Select (formerly the Clarion), Wyndham Gardens (formerly Quality), Embassy Suites, Holiday Inn Market Center, Sheraton Suites and Courtyard by Marriott.

Travelodge Hotel will provide its own shuttle service to the convention center.

Shuttle service will not be available for the Fairfield Inn Regal Row or Stoneleigh.

Downtown Dallas hotels serviced by the Light Rail System are the Adolphus, Dallas Grand, Fairmont, Hampton Inn, Adam's Mark, Holiday Inn Aristocrat, Hyatt Regency, Le Meridien, Paramount, and Ramada Plaza.

For airport service, messengers and other SBC guests can use Discount Shuttle, which

operates orange-colored vehicles, at one-way fares of \$8 for DFW and \$7 for Love Field to and from any Dallas-area hotel.

Messengers who had reservations for the Wyndham Anatole Hotel, which unexpectedly canceled its SBC room block in March, are being relocated to other hotels.

## HOMEcomings

**Arrowood (Lauderdale):** June 1; services, 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner at noon; 1 p.m. singing; and 6 p.m.; Robert Mooney, former pastor, missionary to Africa, guest speaker; Chris Atkinson, pastor.

**Mt. Horeb, Collins:** June 1; services begin at 10 a.m.; and noon meal; Larry Morris, Alpine, Ala., guest speaker; Mike Lott, Butler, Ala., music; Richard Green, interim pastor.

**Interstate, Shaw:** June 1; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; and 1:30 p.m. service; John Cofer, Jackson, speaker; Jasper Butler, Brandon, music.

**Galilee (Copiah):** June 1; worship, 11 a.m. followed by lunch; Pat Bufkin, Crystal Springs, guest speaker; Shirley Bufkin and Joe Ann Ashley, music; Wallace Clark, Silver Creek, pastor.

**New Hope (Lafayette):** June 1; services, 11 a.m.; noon meal; afternoon singing; Joe Nunley, pastor.

**Hebron, Grenada:** June 8; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner at noon; Keith Powell, Baton Rouge, La., guest speaker; Jimmy Hood, Grenada, guest singer; Harold Simmons, pastor.

## REVIVALS

**Holmesville (Pike):** June 1-4; Sunday, lunch following services; 7 p.m. each night; Dave Hartson, Magnolia, evangelist; Danny Creel, McComb, music; Brian Rowe, pastor.

**First, Ovett:** June 1-4; Sunday, 10:55 a.m., lunch, and 1:15 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Harold Bryson, Mississippi College, Clinton, evangelist; Floyd Grice, West Laurel Church, Laurel, music; Tommy Mangum, pastor.

**New Hope (Oktibbeha):** June 1-4; 7 p.m. nightly; Gary Jackson, evangelist; Archie Chesser, music; Hulon Chaney, interim pastor.

**Poplar Springs, Newton:** June 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Sunday-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Felton, evangelist; Marion Felton, music; Charles Bonner, pastor.

**Southside, Vicksburg:** June 1-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; James Messer, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Steve Walker, Pinola, music; Sammy J. McDonald III, pastor.

## STAFF CHANGES

**Pinelake Church, Brandon,** has called **Tommy Politz** as senior pastor. Politz received his education at Baylor University and Southwestern Seminary. He goes to Pinelake Church from Johnson Ferry Church, Marietta, Ga., where he served as assistant pastor.



Politz

**First Church, Collins,** has called **Karen Hardy** as minister of music and youth, effective June 1. She previously served for 10 years as music associate at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

**Calvary Church, New Augusta,** has called **Jason Coker** of Shaw as pastor effective May 4. Coker is a senior at William Carey College.

**Bethany Church, Potts Camp,** has called **Scott Aaron**

Glenn from Seneca, S. C., as youth minister. Glenn, a graduate of Southern Wesleyan University, is currently enrolled at Mid-America Seminary.

**Grady J. Ross** has resigned as pastor of West Gulfport Church, Gulf Coast Association, to accept the call of pastor to Mount Zion Church, Prairieville, La., effective April 27.

**Shady Grove Church, Hazlehurst,** has called **Hal Hatten** as pastor effective June 1. A native of Sumrall, Hatten received his education at New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Central Church, Brookhaven.

**Covington-Jefferson Davis Association** has called **Bruce G. Jolly** as director of missions. A native of Memphis, Tenn., Jolly received his education from Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and Southwestern Seminary. He has pastored Harmony Church, Walnut, since 1990. A reception will held June 8 from 2-3:30 p.m. at the Center.



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*My husband refuses to go to a "quack" for counseling for our serious marital problems. Is there a way to get through to him that we really need counseling?*

He doesn't see a need for counseling because he is apparently comfortable with the way things are. Why is it that he fails to see the marital problems? It could be that you are taking care of matters so well that he believes everything is fine. I hope you aren't in that situation, because you are likely sacrificing your own needs in the process. A second explanation could be that you are simply married to a selfish person.

In either case, do your best to win him over with your gentleness and love (1 Peter 3:1-2). When he does the right things, let him know that you appreciate him. Don't allow your anger and hurt to rob you of the spiritual joy God intended for you. Keep up the good work spiritually and remember that you are pleasing God, if not your husband. It is possible that when your husband sees the Lord in your life, he will come to understand how much better the marriage

could be with Christian counseling to work out these problems.

I hasten to add that if you are in an abusive situation, you should first move to protect yourself from harm and then pray earnestly about what you should do next.

Husbands, do you hear the plea of this wife? You may be shutting down your wife by your distant and selfish behavior. 1 Peter 3:7 (NIV) states, "Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers."

Do you see your wife as your joint heir to God's gracious gift of life? The woman who wrote this letter could be your wife. When was the last you treated your wife as a real person — say, as you treat your co-workers and people you meet during your work day?

If you're having trouble in your prayer life, it's time you read 1 Peter 3:7 and took inventory of your relationship with your wife.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**Highland Church, Vicksburg**, recently held an Acteen Coronation with the theme "Totally His." Pictured are Erin Loper, Service Aide; Melanie Herrington, Queen Regent; Kayla Conrad, Queen; Melissa Herrington, Mississippi Citation; Jennifer Schaffer, Queen; Laura Steen, Queen; Gina Harrison, Queen Regent-in-Service; Keri Connelly, Queen with Scepter; Julia Daniels, Queen; Jennifer Jennings, Queen; Whitney Richardson, Service Aide; and Jessica Rickles, Queen with Scepter. Jackie Richardson is Acteen director and Brian Ivey is pastor.

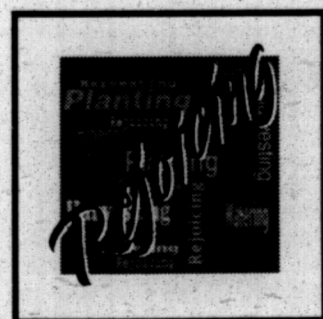
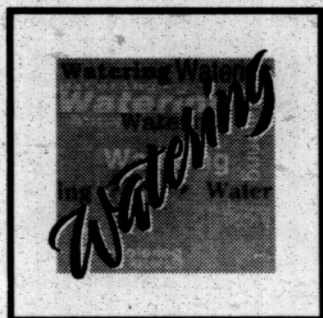
**Calvary Church, New Augusta**, will observe its 75th anniversary on Homecoming Day, June 1. Services will begin at 9:45 a.m. with Sunday School. Kenna Byrd, former pastor, will bring the message at the 11 a.m. worship service followed by dinner on the grounds at noon. Afternoon services will be led by Jack Stanley, former pastor, and his family singers, Heaven Sent. A history of the church will be available during the day's activities. Revival services June 2 through June 6 will be held each night at 7 p.m. and conducted by Jason Coker, pastor.

**Acteens of First Church, Greenwood**, recently attended the Mississippi Acteen Convention in Tupelo. Acteens are Kassie Buck, Casie Burt and Crystal Lee Fleming. Also attending was Beth Aden, Acteen director.

**First Church, State Line**, will celebrate its 125th anniversary and homecoming on June 1. Activities will include Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; and lunch will be served at noon. Lavon Crane is pastor.

**Parkhill Church, Jackson**, will celebrate its 41st anniversary on June 8. The celebration will be held at 11 a.m. with a noon meal in fellowship hall. Jimmy Sellers, Forest, will be the guest speaker. Richard Sullivan, Brandon, will have charge of the music. Tim Roaten is pastor.

## We Shall Come



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First Baptist Church Auditorium, Arlington [Mid-Cities]  
Dr. Charles Wade, Pastor

and

Sunday evening, June 15  
6:00 p.m.

Park Cities Baptist Church, North Dallas  
Dr. Allen J. Walworth, Pastor

 **International  
Mission Board**  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION


## VBS DATES

**Macedonia, Meridian:**  
June 2-6; Friday, Family  
Night; 6:30-8:30 p.m. each  
evening; children through  
grade 6.

**Bethany, Potts Camp:** June  
2-6; 9-11:30 a.m.; for children  
ages 4-12.

**Glade, Laurel:** June 1-5;  
preschool through adults;  
Sunday, 6-8 p.m.; Mon.-  
Thurs., 6-8:30 p.m. except for  
adults who will meet at 7  
p.m.; May 31, Sky Fest VBS  
Rally, 9:30-11 a.m.

**Maybank, Hattiesburg:**  
June 2-6; 8:30-11:30 a.m.;  
children, age 3 through  
grade 6; for more informa-  
tion, call Bob Robinson at  
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## Clarification

On page eight of the May 22 issue, the item concerning a May 31 auction and singing at Corinth Church, Heidelberg, should have contained information that the event is to benefit St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. For more information, call (601) 787-3828.

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## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

The Mississippi College Honors Day Convocation was held in A. E. Wood Coliseum on campus with a host of students recognized for their academic achievements and service to the College. The Student Body



Todd and Lee

Honors are the top honors presented which include the Hall of Fame and the Scott-Swor Founders Award. Named to the Hall of Fame were Carrie Elizabeth Bevell, Olive Branch; Jason Keith Branning, Jackson; Elisabeth Anne Cofer, Brandon; and Jon Stephen Kennedy, Laurel; while William Madison Farmer of Clinton was the recipient of the Scott-Swor Founders Award. Other Student Body honors presented were Mortar Board Freshman Woman of the Year, Jolie Ann Hedglin of McComb; The Omicron Delta Kappa Freshman Man of the Year, Thad W. Burkhalter of Indianola; The Alpha Chi Scholar Athlete of the Year Award, Tom Stewart Lee of Forest and Laura Pittman

Richards of Jackson; The Matthew Bradford Senator of the Year Award, Brent Alan Sullivan of Mize; while the Alpha Lambda Delta Book Award was presented to Jon Stephen Kennedy of Laurel and Ashlee Elaine Kirk of Duck Hill. Jeremy Sherman Lee of Arnold, MD (right) was the recipient of The Norman E. O'Neal Religious Education Award. He is pictured with Howell W. Todd, president of MC.

William Carey College Center for Creative Scholars will present the annual Creativity Exploration for 2nd-6th graders July 21-23 and for 7th-12th graders July 22-23 from 9 a.m. until mid-afternoon. Enrollment is on a first-come, first served basis. For more information call Trudy Abel at (601) 582-6191 or write The Center for Creative Scholars, Box 148, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

Mississippi College (MC) has been named to the 1997-98 Templeton Honor Roll for Character Building Colleges. The honor recognizes institutions that promote the development of character among their student body. "This is our eighth year to receive this distinction. We are happy to be honored for doing something we consider very central to our mission. We value our students and we are committed to providing a premiere academic program that is delivered in a wholesome and nurturing environment," stated Howell Todd, president of MC. The honor serves as a reference list of schools for prospective students, their families, and secondary school guidance counselors, said John M. Templeton, Jr., M.D., president of The John Templeton Foundation, Radnor, Penn., which developed the honor role. Honor roll criteria include encouraging students to explore an individual moral reasoning process,



Commencement ceremonies were held at Mississippi College (MC) on May 10. Dignitaries and their participation in the 171st commencement exercises include (from the left): Larry W. Kennedy, Ph.D., vice president of Church Relations and Chaplain, and also dean of the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies at William Carey College, delivered the invocation; Frank R. Day, chairman of the Board and CEO for Trustmark National Bank and Trustmark Corporation, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters; Howell W. Todd, president of MC, conferred the degrees; Haley Barbour, a partner at Barbour, Griffith, & Rogers, and immediate past chairman of the Republican National Committee, delivered the commencement address; John L. Perkins, Sr., M.Div., director of missions at Northwest Baptist Association delivered the benediction.

fostering positive attitudes and overall well-being, encouraging spiritual growth and moral values, promoting community-building values, and advocating a drug-free lifestyle.

Gerald Hasselman has been appointed professor of education and director of education programs at William Carey College (WCC) on the Coast. Hasselman goes to WCC from the Mississippi Department of

Education in Jackson where he was director of the Bureau of School Improvement. "Dr. Hasselman brings visionary insight into ways to meet challenges confronting both the public and private educational sectors. His background as a classroom teacher, principal, and state department director prepares him to provide outstanding leadership in our education programs," said Jim Edwards, chancellor.



The Student Government Association (SGA) of MC and Wendy's International were co-sponsors of The Charity Golf Tournament at Shady Oaks Country Club in Jackson. The SGA began the annual event two years ago to benefit a local charity. The Baptist Children's Village was this year's recipient of \$1,000 donated by Wendy's International. First place winners where the Baptist Children's Village team. Pictured from the left are Steve Kennedy, president of the SGA, Ralph Medeiros, director of area operations for Wendy's International, and Crystelle Thames, public relations director at the Baptist Children's Village.

## ANNIE ARMSTRONG OFFERINGS

Georgetown Church, Copiah Association, exceeded its goal of \$1,600 for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering with a final total of \$1,942.25. Todd Stewart is pastor.



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**DIRECTOR OF MISSION**, Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo. MUST be active Southern Baptist, have bachelor's degree (master's preferred) and experience on successful admissions staff. Position available 8/1/97. Send letter of application, resume, philosophy statement on admissions in Christian higher education, and three letters of reference to Dr. Rosalyn Snellen, search committee chair, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar, MO 65613.

**NEEDED - PART-TIME MINISTER** of Music/Youth at Calvary Baptist Church in Silver Creek. Send resumes to P.O. Box 127, Silver Creek, MS 39663.

**LIBERTY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**, Panola Association, is in need of a bivocational youth minister. Send a resume to Liberty Hill Baptist Church, Route 1 Box 107, Pope, MS 38658.

**FOR SALE:** 48 passenger Greyhound Eagle Bus. Power steering, restroom, 4 new tires, excellent condition. Price negotiable. Lewis Boone 901-794-1461.

**ACCEPTING** - Full-time music/youth minister resumes. Send to: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 373, Glenwood, AR 71943.

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## NAMES IN THE NEWS

Funeral services were held for **Thomas Edison Fant**, 88, of Laurel, on May 3. Fant, minister, died May 1 at Conva Rest in Petal. A native of McCool, Fant attended Clarke College and

New Orleans Seminary. He served as pastor or interim pastor at the following churches: Hebron; Centerville; First, Soso; Morning Star; Calvary; Indian Springs; Stringer; and

Harmony. He also served as a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and two years as a teacher at the Mississippi Baptist Seminary. Survivors include Thomas Richard "Tom" Fant, Greensboro, N.C.; Gene C. Fant, Hampton, Va.; and Jane Hormann, Petal.

**Charles R. "Bob" Dilks**, Warner Robins, Ga., has been named a candidate consultant in the Foreign Mission Board's Personnel



Dilks

Selection Department, effective June 18. Dilks and his wife Barbara Ann have been missionaries to Japan since 1981. He will work throughout Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, and at Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, Tenn., to identify and encourage men and women pursuing missionary careers. He received his education at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. (BP)



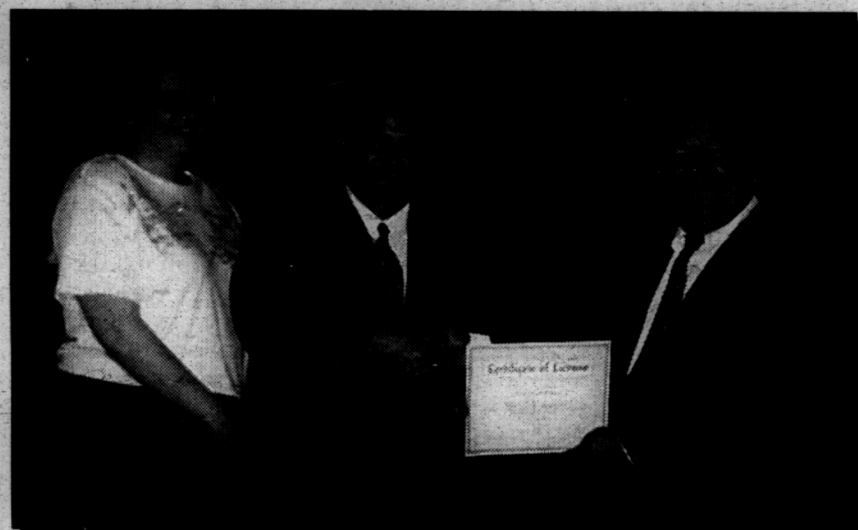
**Keith Smith** (left) was licensed to preach May 4 by Lakeshore Church, Jackson and is available for pulpit supply. Lakeshore pastor Matthew DeBord (right) presents the certificate.



**Concord Church, Booneville**, awarded the Gerald C. Mauney Memorial Scholarship for 1997 to Chad Ball of Savannah, Tenn. Ball is a junior at Blue Mountain College. The scholarship is given annually in memory of Master Sergeant Gerald C. Mauney, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Mauney of Baldwin, who lost his life in Viet Nam. Mauney was the recipient of the National Defense Service Medal, the Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal, and six other badges of honor. Twenty three scholarships have been awarded since 1973. Pictured are (from the left) Keith Mauney; Donna Mauney Stroupe; Robert E. Walker, pastor of Concord Church; Chad Ball; T. C. Mauney; Juanita Mauney.



**Youth Bible Drill participants from Grace Church, Philadelphia**, are (front, from the left) Emily Files, Laney Ryals. (back, from left) Wesley Hazelwood, Allen Willis, Ben Peebles, Ryan Boyette. Leaders (not pictured) are Debbie Peebles and Gwen Ryals.



**John Hollowell** was licensed to the ministry by Gamari Road Church, Greenville on March 30. Pictured from the left are: Karen and John Hollowell, and Jack Demoney, pastor.



**Children's Bible Drill participants from Grace Church, Philadelphia**, are (from the left) Jason Sharp, Tara Ryals, Matt Peebles, Lindsey Tillman, Faith Boyette. Leaders (not pictured) are Ann Bridges, Dee and Kim Edwards.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgment of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

### GOD IN THIRD PERSON

Editor:

I suppose most of us mortals who have struggled with verbs and nouns and adjectives and other parts of English grammar have been exposed to the word "conjugation," which refers to saying the principle parts of a verb in all the tenses and with the proper pronouns besides them. As we learned the process of conjugation, the three persons, singular and plural, entered our minds.

The first person is represented by the pronoun "I" and "we" and is always the speaker. The second person, "you" is both singular/plural and is the person spoken to. The third person, represented by the words "he," "it," "she," or "they," is a person spoken about.

My reason for bringing up the I-you-he-she persons is to show that someone such as I and possibly as you, often think in words of monologue and dialogue. When we think of ourselves, we are thinking (speaking?) in the first person; and when we are thinking (speaking) of a third party, we are doing so in the third person; and when we are having dialogue (we are usually swapping from first person to second and back again) we are mostly subjecting ourselves to a destructive practice, particularly if we imagine ourselves to be conversing with our Maker. My recommendation is that you use monologue instead of dialogue, and that you think of God in the third person rather than the second. A person has the God-given right (and responsibility) to learn and assert control over his or her mind.

Donald R. James  
Plaquemine, La.

### COMING HOME

Editor:

Most of you know I no longer live in Albania. Due to extreme political unrest, the Foreign Mission Board decided to evacuate their mission.

I was redeployed to Bosnia. I first went to Sarajevo for a week, then I traveled to Crikvenica for a week's stay. Next stop was Zagreb for a week and after that, Tuzla for half a week. Finally, a few rooms were rented for me with a Bosnian family in the village of Zivenice where I have finally unpacked my suitcase and started living again.

I must say, the Lord is very faithful to supply his children with the necessary grace and strength needed to withstand the rigors of evacuation. Though this might all sound like a "doom and gloom" scenario, I must say that I don't look on it like that at all. I cannot tell you the wealth of wisdom I gained from this experience — from two years' worth of experiences. It's been an awesome growth period.

I'll be home soon. June 26 is the official departure date. Truly, my ministry has been your ministry. Thank you.

For now, all correspondence or questions should be sent to my parents at 16441 F Taylor Road, Saucier, MS 39574. My e-mail address will be r.clark@world-net.att.net. The post-war postal system in Bosnia is severely impaired. I would be home before your letters reached me!

Kevin Walker, SBC missionary  
Saucier

### CELEBRATING ETHNICITY

Editor:

Southern Baptists, who comprise America's most diverse denomination, will celebrate their ethnicity during their annual convention June 15-19 in Dallas. Russell Begaye, director of the Language Church Extension Division of the Home Mission Board (HMB), calls "Celebrating Ethnic Southern Baptists", a historic gathering.

"Southern Baptists will celebrate the starting of a new ethnic congregation every 16 hours, the work of 8,000 ethnic churches, and the salvation of thousands of ethnics annually at a ratio of 12 to 1," says Begaye. This historic event will take place at First Church, Dallas, on June 15 beginning 2 p.m. It promises to be a celebratory event that includes presentations by ethnic choirs, ethnic preachers, and personalities such as Morris Chapman, Bob Reccord, Paige Patterson, Rudy Hernandez, Simon Tsoi, and Russell Begaye.

At the conclusion of the program a march to the convention center will take place. The Howard Payne University Marching Band will accompany the march. Following the march, a large number of ethnics will join the Pastors' Conference. We invite all Southern Baptists to join us in this celebration.

Moises Rodriguez  
Home Mission Board, Atlanta

### ASK POSITIVE OF GOD

Editor:

Not long ago during a time of Bible study and meditation, I asked this question: "Why, when we pray, do we continually ask God to 'be with' someone, whether it be the ill, shut-ins, missionaries, leaders, or even the lost?"

Doesn't "be with" sound a little passive to you? We are calling on an omnipresent God who is already with those for whom we are praying, and we know that his will is being done in every case. Of course he is with our missionaries, guiding them and strengthening them in every way.

Might we not ask of God some strong positive act, such as healing the sick or blessing and providing for our missionaries? If we called for one-half the promises of God found in his Word, we would be praying for a long, long time. Even now, we have eternity to praise him for his unspeakable gift He has also promised us that our

prayers will be worded for us by the Holy Spirit. How he loves us!

J. B. Morgan  
Long Beach

### MINISTRY NEEDS PUPPETS

Editor:

Sunflower Church, Sunflower, has a unique opportunity to minister to a growing Hispanic population in our area. I want to praise the small congregation here for having a mission vision that they localize. It is refreshing and exciting to be the pastor of a congregation of so few who have the vision to reach out to others and not just look inward.

A few months ago, we began having Sunday afternoon services in Spanish. Most of the Mexican people work on either a farm (agricultural or fish), a fish hatchery, or a fish processing plant. The employer for whom they work provides housing. This employer is delighted with the work we are trying to accomplish. He has offered an old building on his property used as storage for supplies to build housing for the growing Hispanic population. There will be approximately 200-250 Hispanic-speaking people in this community in the next few months.

We are in desperate need of some puppets! At times we have had access to puppets, and this seems to be the best way to reach the children. If any church has some old puppets that they are not using, we can put them to good use in this mission ministry. Also, we are planning a Mission Vacation Bible School in July. If any church has any VBS materials in Spanish, we could use them.

Contact me at (601) 569-3342 (church), or 569-2164 (parsonage). Thanks for your help. Above all, please pray for this ministry.

Edward Wood, pastor  
Sunflower Church  
Sunflower

### TRIBUTE TO W. HINES SIMS

An early morning call on May 1 told me that W. Hines Sims had died in Chattanooga, Tenn., the night before — April 30.

A thousand memories flooded my mind, and I would be true to those feelings in my heart and pay tribute to this tall man whose leadership in church music left a distinct mark on the story of Southern Baptists.

At the invitation of B. B. McKinney, Sims joined the Church Music Department of the Sunday School Board in 1946. The department was only five years old. Following McKinney's death in 1952, Sims succeeded him as department head and served in this capacity for eighteen years and retired in 1970.

Under his leadership the department experienced its greatest growth and the program of church music in Southern Baptist churches developed in an extraordinary way. He began the monthly periodical "The Church Musician" in 1950 and served as its editor for twenty years. Music weeks at Ridgecrest and Glorieta under his leadership had steady growth and provided exciting musical experiences.

When he joined the department, five state conventions had music leaders; when he retired every state convention had one or more persons promoting music in the churches of that state. He was editor of the 1956 "Baptist Hymnal," which had sales of more than six million copies, the greatest of any twentieth century Baptist hymnal.

We thank God for Walter Hines Sims for his unquestioned character and integrity, but most of all for his commitment to the cause of Christian song.

William J. Reynolds  
Southwestern Seminary  
Fort Worth, Texas

### SEEK OUT LOCAL CHURCH

Editor:

Many comments are heard today about the church. I list a few that I have heard:

"I belong to the invisible church," "It really does not matter what church one joins," "I was raised a \_\_\_\_\_," "I belong to a local church but am ashamed to say that I belong to that church," "I belong to a church but if someone inquires about my church affiliation, I simply reply, 'I am a Christian,'" "I am a Christian but I do not have to be a part of a local church," "It's no big deal whether I belong to a local church or not."

Why not check out what the Bible says about the local church: The word "church" translates the Greek word ekklesia. The meaning is, "a called out assembly." In the New Testament this word refers to the local church over 100 times. The local church is important.

When one has been born from above he becomes a part of the Body of Christ. At that time one should become affiliated with a local church. This is a very important decision. This is where conviction comes into play.

One should seek out a local church where Christ is head. Where the Bible is preached and taught. Where there is unity and accord. Whose doctrine is New Testament doctrine. Where everything is done decently and in order. Where Christian love and fellowship is manifest. Having a missions program that best carries out the Great Commission of Christ. Where other good things do not crowd out the preaching of God's Word.

Jim Burke  
Waynesboro



## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Practice what you preach

I Timothy 4:1-16

By Paul Blanchard

Christians serve Christ well when they teach by word and deed the truths of God's Word. The aim of this lesson is to lead adults to state ways they will declare and demonstrate the truths of God's Word in the coming week.

**An ever present danger (4:1-5).** Since creation, the earth has been the battleground between God and Satan. God calls mankind to respond to his word, and Satan tries to lure them to follow lies. Sadly, even some who profess to follow God's truth turn away from it. Among many examples of apostasy in the Old Testament was King Amaziah of Judah. II

Chronicles 25:2 says of him, "he did right in the sight of the Lord, yet not with a whole heart." His religion was mere external behavior; in his heart he did not know God.

The New Testament also has its share of apostates, men like Judas Iscariot (John 6:70-71) and Demas (2 Timothy 4:10). Church history from New Testament times until our own day is replete with examples of apostates.

**An attainable benefit (4:6-9).** The Apostle Paul calls Timothy to be an excellent servant of Jesus Christ. There is no effective spiritual ministry apart from personal godliness, since ministry is the overflow of a godly life. Godliness expresses



Blanchard

the reality of reverence, piety, and true spiritual value. It is a word much used by the philosophers of Paul's day. Godliness is a right attitude and response toward the one true God. Thus, it is the highest of all virtues. In II

Corinthians 7:1, Paul exhorted us to "cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

**A sustaining hope (4:10).** Verse 10 states that our hope is in the living God. Our eternal hope is not motivated by instant gratification. We are to constantly labor in the light of eternity. As we are saved in hope (Romans 8:24), so we are to live in hope and minister in hope.

The Bible teaches that those who reject God will be sentenced to hell. (Revelation 20:11-15). II Thess. 1:8-9 says that those who do not know

God and refuse to obey the gospel will suffer eternal punishment away from God's presence. Jesus repeatedly spoke of the danger of hell, warning that those who rejected him would die in their sins (John 8:24). Reflecting on the hope that is in God leads adults to praise and witnessing.

**A powerful example (4:11-15).** Our lives are to be witnesses of the saving grace of our Lord Jesus. Timothy was warned to be an example in speech. A man's speech reflects what is in his heart. All types of sinful speech must be avoided by the born-again Christian, including any deviation from truthfulness. Scripture is replete with exhortations to godly living. Seeing the important results of a solid Christian service can lead adults to seek ways to declare and to demonstrate God's word at home, at work, at play, and at church. Timothy was also to be an

example in biblical love, which is different from what our culture calls love. It involves self-sacrifice on behalf of others. Our Lord stated in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

**A worthwhile result (4:16).** It is the unmistakable teaching of scripture that persevering in the faith is a mark of genuine salvation. Jesus said in John 8:31, "If you abide in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine." Perseverance can only be accomplished by the power of God. We should be watchful each day to be sure our lives reflect and honor the Lord Jesus. People should be able to see Jesus in us instead of some false cult or false witness. Like Matthew stated, those around us should see our good works and glorify our Father, who is in heaven!

Blanchard is Director of Missions, Winston Association.

## LIFE AND WORK

### Prayer

Psalms 86:1-17

By Becky Bennett

When my niece was young and learning to pray, her parents allowed her to say the blessing before meals. Instead of repeating a prayer from memory, she was encouraged to talk to God and thank him. After closing her eyes and thanking God for Mommy and Daddy, she opened her eyes and looked at the table and continued, "Thank you for the beans, the corn, the peas, the beets—no, no, not the beets! Thank you for the roast and cornbread, Amen." How beautifully honest are the prayers of little ones. Wouldn't it be a great if Christians would pray with both the honesty of children and the maturity of adults? This lesson teaches us four important char-

acteristics of a developing prayer life.

**Submission (86:1-4).** Submission is the act of yielding to the authority or control of another. There is no doubt in these verses the writer is yielding to the authority and control of the Lord. The writer, described as a servant, is totally devoted to the master. Thus, he calls upon the master frequently and the master hears, answers and brings the servant great joy.

Submission happens to be one of the words most of us would rather not have in our vocabulary. Because of the freedoms we possess in America and the times in which we live, submission does not come easy. For the Christian it is a neces-



Bennett

sary principle by which to live. God deserves and demands our submission to him, therefore, as we pray our submission to God should be evident.

**Confidence (86:5-7).** Confidence in praying should result from a heart submitted to God's will. We can be confident because of God's answers to our previous prayers. We know God's nature. He is forgiving and good. He proves his love to us as he answers our prayers. When trouble strikes, God should be the first to whom we turn. This is because we know he will hear and answer. Practice in praying will develop our confidence in God.

Think of a favorite teacher. The first time you asked for help you may have been a bit tentative, not knowing if you would receive the help for which you asked. When that teacher responded to you with not only the help you needed,

but with encouragement and kindness, you were not afraid to ask again and again. How much greater should be our confidence in God. He is tried and true. Giving us exactly what we need when we need it. God responds to our prayers in love and mercy. There is no other that can compare with God.

**Praise (86:8-13).** Confidence in God leads to praise! The more we pray, the more confidence we have in God. The more confidence we have in God, the more we should praise him. True praise will lead us to emulation. Learning and living God's ways will give us an undivided heart. Can you envision the wonderful things that could happen in our lives and in our churches if all of us had undivided hearts?

**Petition (86:14-17).** With an undivided heart we can approach God with our petitions. When we become conscious of God's greatness and glory, prayer takes on new

power. God loves us deeply and listens to our prayers. Since he "is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20), we can be sure if he doesn't fulfill all our requests it will be because he wants to give us something better.

Therefore, when we don't receive everything for which we ask, we need not be discouraged. God loves us and delights in giving us what we desire. But since he knows how things will end even before they begin, he sometimes answers our petitions differently from what we ask. God's way is always the best way.

Are you growing in your ability to pray? Is practice making your prayer life perfect? Do you let the Holy Spirit guide you in praying? Remember to pray with the honesty of a child, but continue to mature in the power of the Spirit.

Bennett is Dean of Students at Blue Mountain College.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Focusing on what unites us

I Cor. 1:10-13; 3:3-6, 16-17, 21-23

By Greg McBride

Probably all of us have been touched by divisions in the church. Many of us have experienced first hand a church split over an issue which, now that we look back on it, was trivial and of little importance. One of Satan's best ploys against a church that is growing in the Lord is to drive wedges into their unity. Such was the problem Paul addressed in the opening paragraphs of his letter to the church at Corinth.

**Unity in Christ (1:10-13).** Because of its location at the convergence of many trade routes, the city of Corinth consisted of people from various

regions and cultures. Soon after its establishment the church of Corinth consisted of Christians who had been led to Christ by different leaders. It wasn't long before the church had divided itself behind these various leaders and a spirit of exclusiveness prevailed.

Instead of unity, there was division. Such division arises in the church when it takes its eyes off the Lord and begins to focus on itself. Paul exhorted the church that God had not intended the church be divided into competing groups. Instead the church was to be united in their common commitment to Christ.

**Enemies of Unity (3:3-6).**



McBride

Paul quickly pointed to the underlying cause of this divisiveness. Instead of growing into mature believers of Christ and feeding on the meat of the word of God, the Corinthians had remained babes. They were still attaching themselves to the world—they were still

fleshy. Is there division in your fellowship? Would you say Christ is on your side or their side? Paul says neither. The enemy of unity in the church is immaturity—our immaturity.

Another part of the problem at Corinth was a poor understanding of the role of leaders in the church. Rather than being exclusive and having great authority, Paul said leaders were servants and each worked in partnership to accomplish God's work in the church. Each was necessary. What are you doing to help

your church staff accomplish your church's mission?

**The Sanctity of the Church (3:16-17).** Paul continued, Did you not know that the church is the temple of God and that God dwells in his temple? The question carried the tone of disbelief. Did the Corinthians not know the danger that their divisiveness had put them in. God himself avenges the church against those who would divide it—even if they are within the church.

We should be careful to note from this mild rebuke from Paul that the church is more important to God than our own personal opinions or feelings. If we intentionally or unintentionally push an issue to divide God's church, God will act against us in retribution. The Church is Holy to God.

**The Role of Leaders (3:21-23).** So that this problem would not surface again Paul instructed the church on the role of

leaders. God gives leaders to the church in order to meet the church's spiritual needs. Though these leaders should be respected and followed, none should be respected more than the other (v21). The church should focus on the message and purpose of the leader, rather than on the leader himself.

We should note the chain of possession Paul gives in these verses. The church does not belong to the leaders. The leaders belong to the church. The church belongs to Christ, and Christ belongs to God. When God's ownership is acknowledged and heeded in the church, divisions do not occur.

If your church is experiencing division now... listen to Paul. Beware that you do not divide God's church because of immaturity. Rather seek to grow in the knowledge of Christ, for in Christ there is unity.

McBride is pastor, Kittiwake Church, Pass Christian.



# BSSB, NavPress produce CD Bible studies

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) is partnering with NavPress Software to publish its "StraighTrak" youth materials on CD-ROM, the first set of BSSB-produced Bible studies to be published on computer-readable media.

Used by more than 20,000 teens each week, "StraighTrak: Teen Bible Studies on Current Issues" cover "hot topics" confronting teenagers in their everyday lives, such as dating, sex, violence, and the generation gap.

According to Wesley Black, associate professor of youth education at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas,

"StraighTrak is great material for youth workers to use in a variety of settings: Wednesday nights, lock-ins, retreats, conferences, or small group discussions."

One reason for the product's success is its involvement of youth in the development of the materials, Richard Barnes, manager of the youth biblical studies section at the Sunday School Board, said.

"StraighTrak" development meetings are held four times a year at different locations across the United States, with youth ministers, youth workers, pastors, parents and teens all working together to create topics and

lessons of interest to youth.

According to NavPress software developer Jim Sneeringer, "StraighTrak" on CD-ROM will combine "timely, youth-oriented resources with a state-of-the-art electronic library system."

The initial release of 200 lessons (volumes 1-20) will be available this summer and is being published in the Bible industry-standard STEP format, an acronym for Software Template for Electronic Publishing.

The cost of StraighTrak on CD-ROM, available for use with Windows 95 or Windows 3.1, is \$69.95. The product can be purchased at Baptist Book Stores, selected Christian retailers and through the Austin-Texas based NavPress Software company.

## Walking across country goal of Tennessee man

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Levi Tarapen set out on a 3,600-mile walk across the United States May 5.

That in itself is not unusual; others have done it. What makes Tarapen's venture special is he's doing it for the Lord.

Tarapen literally stepped out in faith because he believes strongly the Lord called him to hike across the United States, giving his testimony along the way.

Tarapen, a member of Inglewood Church, Nashville, was baptized last November.

"I was so grateful for what the Lord had done in my life that I prayed for a mission that would glorify Christ," the 44-year-old truck driver said.

"About a week after I prayed, I was driving to Indiana and it came to me the Lord wanted me to walk across America to glorify Jesus Christ," he said.

Tarapen's pastor, Kevin Shrum, said he would "be skeptical" if not for Tarapen's attitude and approach to what he is doing.

"He has been thoughtful, prayerful, and meticulous in his planning," Shrum said.

"He wants to do this as an extension of the ministry of this church. That lends a lot of credibility to it," Shrum noted.

Tarapen started his trek from Sullivan's Island, near Charleston, S.C.

He hopes to walk to Knoxville, Tenn., by June 6 in time for a Promise Keepers meeting there.

He will then journey to Nashville and on to California — a 3,600-mile trip that will take about six months, he projects.

Although traveling by himself on two-lane, primary roads, Tarapen will have a constant companion.

"I plan to speak to the Lord every step of the way. This is a growing experience for me," he said.

Tarapen knows it will not be easy. "I cannot do this if the Lord is not in it," he admitted.

Churches along his route have been notified he will be coming.

During his walk across America, Tarapen said, he hopes to convey to people there is no better life than one directed by Jesus Christ.

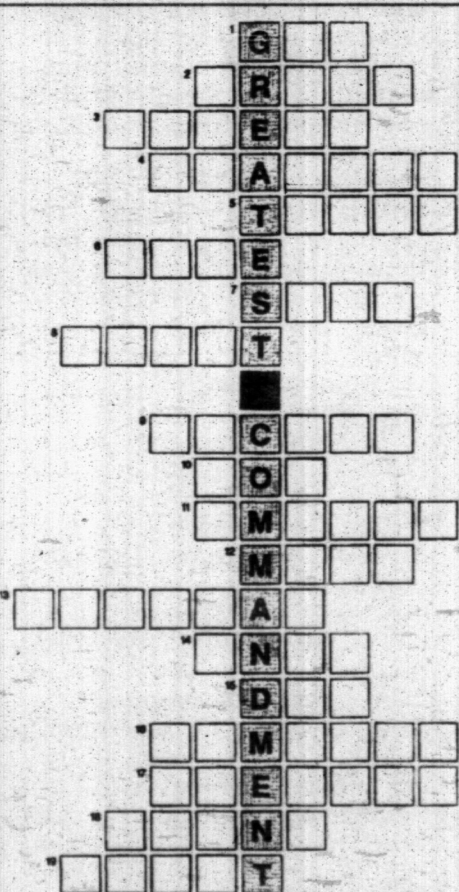
## Kid's Page



### Dear Pen Pal Club,

My name is Marianna Fountain. I go to school in Forest, Miss. and I'm 7 in the second grade. I go to Forest Baptist Church. My hobbies are reading, GA's, playing with friends, drawing, and just being nice. My birthday is the 7th of August. I have two sisters; one 15 and the other 17. I have a pet fish named Fishey Fish Fountain. My favorite food is BBQ chicken. I don't care if a boy or girl writes me.

Please write to:  
103 Azalea Dr.  
Forest, MS 39074



Directions: Fill in the blanks in the sentences below, and fit those words into the across. The words in the shaded boxes tell how important Jesus thinks the command to love God is.

1. Jesus came to teach about \_\_\_\_\_ and his laws.
2. The Pharisees wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.
3. The man talking to Jesus was an \_\_\_\_\_ in the law.
4. The man called Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The Bible \_\_\_\_\_ us Jesus' answer.
6. Jesus said, "\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord your God."
7. You are to love God with all your heart, \_\_\_\_\_ and mind.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Ten Commandments says, "You shall have no other gods before me."
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ commandment says to make no idols.
10. You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ down to idols or worship them.
11. An idol is anything you make more \_\_\_\_\_ than God.
12. We need to learn as \_\_\_\_\_ as possible about God.
13. Jesus was talking about a \_\_\_\_\_ kind of love.
14. This kind of love comes \_\_\_\_\_ from God.
15. God showed his love when he sent Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_ on the cross.
16. Jesus says if we love him, we will obey his \_\_\_\_\_.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ God can be difficult.
18. Sometimes we do the \_\_\_\_\_ thing.
19. But we should always want to do what's \_\_\_\_\_.

### You Shall Love the Lord with All Your Heart, Soul, and Mind

Source: *Ten to Grow On: Teaching the Ten Commandments to Today's Child* by Sandra Klaus (Zondervan Publishing House, 1992). Available at your local bookstore or by calling 1-800-727-3480.

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
copyright 1997

F LZQS PVAD SNI PVADQ  
VO NFL SNWS QIBS LI,  
PNFMI FS FQ HWT: SNI  
BFYNS JVLISN, PNIB BV  
LWB JWB PVAD.

XVNB BFB: OVZA

Clue: M equals L

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Four Forty-one.

## Crawfish and BSU



Around 60 Baptist Student Union leadership, friends and staff from the three campuses of Gulf Coast Community College braved gale force winds and 100 pounds of boiled crawfish at the annual end of the year leadership celebration. The three campus BSU presidents are: (from left) Mark Pichon, Jackson County Campus; Amy Shaw, Jeff Davis Campus; Stuart McMorris, Perkinson Campus. Tim Thomas is the director. (BR Special Photo)